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DOE-RL/DIS

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I believe that the Hanford Site is an extraordinarily important area of the native shrub-steppe ecosystem which has been protected for nearly 50 years and should continue to be protected permanently as a national natural heritage for future generations.

I urge that the entire site, including the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, the Hanford Reach, the Columbia Islands, and DOE's entire Wapluke Slope as well as central Hanford, be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge.

Commercial mining, grazing, and agriculture must be prohibited to prevent degradation of this special habitat.

Management by a committee composed of federal, state and local representatives would be extremely risky. Political winds with regard to habitat preservation change frequently, and irreparable damage could be done to the area during these shifts. National management will give the safest protection for this valuable area.

Sincerely,

*Louisa Nishitani*  
*Louisa Nishitani*

Louisa Nishitani  
62 Deer Cove Lane  
Naches, WA 98937